

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 AGR-05 INT-05

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R 162045Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 394

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

NATL MARINE FISHERIES SERV ST PETERSBURG FLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5870

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT: SHRIMPING OPERATIONS

REF: STATE 157383

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH CONSUL BELEM, REPRESENTATIVES OF FISHING/SHRIMPING INDUSTRIES IN BELEM HAVE STATED THAT THE SHRIMPING THIS YEAR IS VERY POOR IN THE AREA COVERED BY THE US-BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT. THE GOOD SHRIMPING IS OFF THE COAST OF MARANHAO. DESPITE ORDERS TO THE CONTRARY FROM FLEET MANAGERS, AMERICAN SHRIMP BOATS ARE REPORTEDLY SHRIMPING RATHER CONSISTENTLY IN THIS AREA, RATHER THAN IN THE AREA COVERED BY THE SHRIMP AGREEMENT. ONE AMERICAN COMPANY WITH A LARGE SHRIMP FLEET EXPECTS THAT MANY MORE AMERICAN BOATS WILL BE PICKED UP BY THE BRAZILIAN NAVY BEFORE THE YEAR IS OVER. OTHER INDUSTRY SOURCES EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ONLY TWO AMERICAN BOATS HAD BEEN CAUGHT SO FAR THIS YEAR AND SUGGESTED THAT THE REASON FOR THIS WAS THE FACT THAT BRAZILIAN NAVY PATROLS WERE INFREQUENT AND AT REGULAR PREDICTABLE INTERVALS.

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2. BRAZILIAN NAVY SOURCES HAVE TOLD CONSUL IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS THAT A NUMBER OF AMERICAN SHRIMP BOATS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SPOTTED THIS YEAR IN AREAS THAT THE BRAZILIANS CONSIDER TO BE OFF LIMITS TO AMERICAN BOATS UNDER THE AGREEMENT. THE BOATS WERE NOT APPREHENDED BECAUSE THEY MANAGED TO FLEE THE AREA BEFORE A NAVY SHIP COULD ARRIVE. THE NAVY SOURCE SEEMED TO BE SOMEWHAT SYMPATHETIC TOWARD THE AMERICAN BOATS. HE EXPLAINED THAT ONE REALLY CAN'T EXPECT A SHRIMP BOAT CAPTAIN NOT TO SHRIMP IN THE AREAS WHERE THE SHRIMP ARE. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ALL THE CAPTAINS AND FISHERMEN ON THE AMERICAN BOATS SHRIMPING OUTSIDE THE AREA OF THE AGREEMENT WERE BRAZILIAN NATIONALS FROM THE BELEM AREA CONSUL WAS LEFT WITH THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT A NUMBER OF BOATS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN PICKED UP WERE NOT, BUT THAT THERE WOULD DEFINITELY BE MORE AMERICAN BOATS APPREHENDED BEFORE THE SHRIMPING SEASON ENDS THIS YEAR.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT TRY TO VERIFY FROM THE INDUSTRY THE INFORMATION COLLECTED IN BELEM, WHICH STANDS AT VARIANCE WITH THE REPORTS REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL. IF THE BELEM INFO IS CONFIRMED, THESE ASSESSMENTS MENTIONED IN THE LAST PART OF THAT PARA WOULD BE IN ORDER. THE EMBASSY IS, AS REPORTED EARLIER, READY TO MAKE PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS WITH THE GOB OF POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE AGREEMENT AREA.

4. RE JAPANESE BOATS MENTIONED PARA 3, STATE 157383, FONOFF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FISHING MATTERS TOLD EMBASSY ECON OFFICER THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF JAPANESE SHRIMPBOATS SIGHTED IN BRAZILIAN-CLAIMED WATERS BUT THEY HAD DEPARTED BEFORE THE NAVY COULD APPREHEND THEM. HE SAID THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH JAPANESE ON JOINT FISHING VENTURES AND THAT GOB DOES NOT PLAN TO CONCLUDE FISHING AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN. CRIMMINS

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